

COVID-19

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

NEW SNOHOMISH HEALTH DISTRICT BLOG ADDRESSES MISINFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19

The latest blog from the Snohomish Health District addresses questions, speculation, and outright falsehoods on COVID-19. [Link at right.](#)

COUNTY LEADERS GIVE WEEKLY UPDATE ON COVID-19

As case counts continue to climb, Snohomish County leaders on Tuesday urged people to stay the course and heed health measures. Links to the latest briefing video and transcript are at right.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING

New Snohomish Health District Blog Addresses Misinformation about COVID-19

The amount of information about the COVID-19 pandemic can be overwhelming.

So can the amount of misinformation.

This disease has disrupted our lives. The measures in place to reduce the spread have created new challenges. Misinformation makes it more difficult to come together as a community to face this pandemic.

We've seen questions, speculation, and some outright falsehoods, particularly on social media. We want to address some of those. We also want to remind people that, like a virus, misinformation can spread quickly and be dangerous. Please carefully consider the information you are sharing and the source of that information before you spread it further via your own social media or social circles.

In the blog:

- Are we seeing more cases because there's more testing?
- If someone is tested multiple times, are they counted multiple times in the case data?
- Does the case rate per 100,000 population include positive antibody/serology tests?
- Have COVID-19 deaths been over-reported?
- Shouldn't we just open up and let people get exposed so we have herd immunity?
- If cases are up but hospitals aren't overwhelmed, does that mean this disease isn't that serious?
- I had to quarantine because I'm a close contact of a case. Can I go back to work if I test negative?
- Can my doctor give me a medical exemption so I don't have to wear a face covering in public?
- Can businesses do anything if customers don't wear face coverings?
- Are most new cases linked to specific events or gatherings?
- Should I get tested if I went to a large gathering?

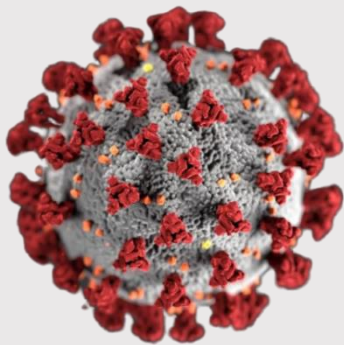
The complete blog post can be [read here](#).

County Leaders Give Weekly Update on COVID-19

As case counts continue to climb, Snohomish County leaders on Tuesday urged people to stay the course and heed health measures.

Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, Snohomish Health District Health Officer Dr. Chris Spitters, and Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management Director Jason Biermann provided updates on the COVID-19 response during a virtual media briefing.

Along with the continued increase in cases, the briefing includes information on case data by race and ethnicity as well as the work done during the county Emergency Coordination Center's first 100 days of activation for COVID-19, among other topics. Non-white populations are seeing higher risk of infection than white people in Snohomish County, Dr. Spitters said. More information will be released Friday, but he noted that the highest case rates have been among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, with a rate 14 times higher than whites. The rate for Hispanics was



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GOVERNOR SAYS NO CHANGES IN 'SAFE START' STATUS BEFORE JULY 28, AT EARLIEST

Gov. Jay Inslee said Tuesday that rising COVID-19 cases will require a pause through July 28 – at the earliest – before his office will consider easing restrictions for any Washington county.

VIDEO: HAVE THESE SYMPTOMS? GET TESTED

The Joint Information Center on Tuesday published a brief social media video that aims to share SHD guidance for testing. Links to share at right.

about three times higher than the rate for whites, and both Black and Native American-Alaskan Native rates were two times higher.

“COVID-19, as many people have said, is exposing some of the underlying disparities in health and the factors that underlie our health as individuals, as a community,” Spitters said.

Biermann emphasized that we are all in uncharted territory during this pandemic. Last week, the Emergency Coordination Center reached 100 days of activation for this response. During the first 19 weeks of activation, 139 different people put in more than 21,500 hours. Efforts have included procuring and distributing 4 million pieces of personal protective equipment as well as launching a program to help provide food to underserved neighborhoods.

Executive Somers urged people to continue following safety measures such as wearing a face cover, social distancing and avoiding large gatherings. He pointed to the rising case numbers as a sign for concern, but said there are hopeful signs, as well, including hospitals not currently being overwhelmed. It is important to prevent that.

“We need to stay the course and keep this thing under control,” Somers said. “That’s our best path forward, so thank you.”

Watch the briefing here: https://youtu.be/G_xuShKvKLC.

Or read the transcript:

<https://www.snohd.org/DocumentCenter/View/4402/transcript-july-14-briefing-final?bidId>.

Governor Says No Changes in 'Safe Start' Status Before July 28, at Earliest

Gov. Jay Inslee said Tuesday that rising COVID-19 cases will require a pause through July 28 – at the earliest – before his office will consider easing restrictions for any Washington county.

That means Snohomish County can expect to remain at Phase 2 under the Safe Start plan at least through the end of the month.

Inslee announced his decision during an afternoon press conference. He expressed concern about rapidly increasing numbers of cases, particularly among younger people. Inslee urged everyone to continue to wear face coverings and practice social distancing.

The state must “face a brutal truth” that the virus is spreading again, the governor said. It is possible that tightening of restrictions seen in earlier phases may be necessary, he added.

The press conference was [broadcast on TVW](#).

Video: Have These Symptoms? Get Tested

Do you have any of the following?

- Fever or chills
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle or body aches

Even ONE mild symptom may indicate that you have COVID-19 and could pass it on to others

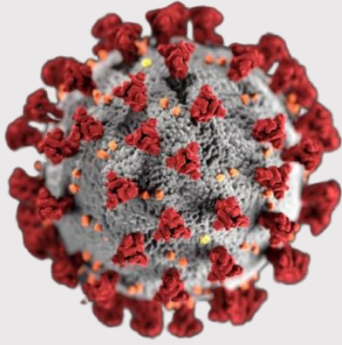
Should I get tested?

- Cough
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue

The Joint Information Center on Tuesday published a brief social media video that aims to share [Snohomish Health District guidance for testing](#) for COVID-19. Testing to swiftly identify and isolate those who have been infected is among the most effective tools for reducing the spread of the novel coronavirus.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)



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MARYSVILLE ANNOUNCES NEW ROUND OF BUSINESS RENT RELIEF GRANTS

The City of Marysville invites small businesses who have suffered who have suffered significant financial loss from the COVID-19 pandemic to apply for a second round of Marysville CARES Business Rent Relief Grants.

EQUESTRIAN RIDERS WELCOME AT EVERGREEN STATE FAIR PARK

The outdoor covered arena at the Evergreen State Fair Park is offering two-hour slots for equestrian open rides and exercise.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PUBLISHES DETAILED COVID-19 PRELIMINARY DEATH DATA REPORT

The Washington State Department of Health published a new death data report that includes different categories of COVID-19 deaths. Link to the report at right.

Marysville Announces New Round of Business Rent Relief Grants



The City of Marysville invites small businesses who have suffered significant financial loss from the COVID-19 pandemic to [apply for a second round](#) of Marysville CARES Business Rent Relief Grants. Marysville businesses with a minimum of 10 and up to 49 full-time

employees are eligible. Application deadline is July 22.

Grants for payment or reimbursement of up to three months of business rent, lease or mortgage payments may be awarded to businesses that meet these criteria:

- Located within Marysville city limits,
- Current on business licenses,
- Have 10-49 full-time employees or equivalent, including owner,
- Experienced at least 25% decrease in revenues attributable to COVID-19,
- Are applying for eligible rent, lease or mortgage payments, and
- In business since on or before Jan. 1, 2020.

"With many Marysville businesses struggling, we are grateful for every opportunity to help when we can," Mayor Jon Nehring said.

Find the application form at

<https://www.marysvillewa.gov/FormCenter/COVID19-Relief-Programs-22/City-of-Marysville-Business-Rent-Relief--109>

The city is awarding these federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act funds distributed through the State of Washington.

Equestrian Riders Welcome at the Evergreen State Fair Park

The outdoor covered arena at the Evergreen State Fair Park is offering two-hour slots for equestrian open rides and exercise.

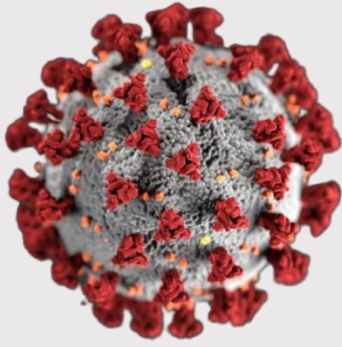
For more information, to pre-pay, and register, please visit Snohomish County Parks' [webpage](#).



Washington State Department of Health Publishes Detailed COVID-19 Preliminary Death Data Report

In the continuing effort to collect, maintain and share the most useful data available to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday published a new [death data](#)





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FEDS RELEASE MAY AND JUNE COVID-19 STATE TESTING PLANS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services made May and June COVID-19 testing plans from all states, territories, and localities publicly available on HHS.gov.

CDC OFFERS TIPS FOR SAFER COOK-OUTS DURING COVID-19

See the link at right for updated advice from the CDC on a variety of activities, including safer cook-outs and other summer gatherings.

[report](#) that includes different categories of COVID-19 deaths. Among those who have tested positive for COVID-19, these categories include confirmed due to COVID-19, suspected of being due to COVID-19, non-COVID-19 deaths and deaths pending or missing cause of death. In addition, there are 77 deaths that are probably due to COVID-19, but they are not among those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Since the first COVID-19 case in Washington in January, DOH has worked to transparently release data in near real-time so that the public, health care providers, policy makers, the media and public health professionals can access current information. This additional information gives context for decision makers working to stop the spread of the virus.

Approximately 89 percent of the deaths among lab confirmed COVID-19 cases also reference COVID-19 on the death certificate. An additional 4 percent have been determined not to be COVID-19 related and have been removed from the dashboard count. The remaining 7 percent are pending or the death certificate is unclear and requires further examination and review. The state's data dashboard represents approximately 96 percent (89 percent + 7 percent) of all deaths to lab confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The updated information has resulted in reclassifying four Snohomish County deaths that previously had been listed as being from COVID-19. At this writing, the state reports 176 Snohomish County COVID-19 deaths, with 14 of those still undergoing some review.

To determine whether COVID-19 contributed to a person's death, DOH uses death certificates, COVID-19 testing results, case/contact investigation information, follow-up with medical certifiers and information from local public health jurisdictions. Determining whether COVID-19 caused or contributed to a person's death can be a complex process that may take weeks to verify.

This report highlights this complexity by breaking down the ways in which our data collection teams categorize each death, and how they work over time to investigate deaths and categorize them appropriately.

Feds Release May and June COVID-19 State Testing Plans

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) made May and June COVID-19 Testing Plans from all states, territories, and localities publicly available on HHS.gov. The State Testing Plans serve as a roadmap for each state's 2019 testing strategy for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The plans include details on response to surge cases and how to reach vulnerable populations including minorities, immunocompromised individuals and older adults.

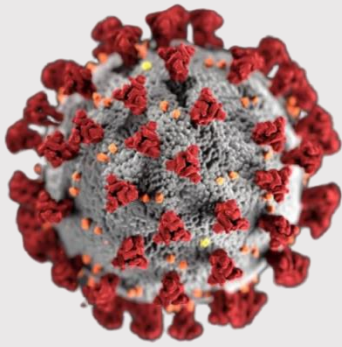
In May, CDC awarded a total of [\\$10.25 billion to states, territories, and localities - PDF](#) to be used to implement the goals of each jurisdiction's testing plan. States, territories, and localities will be expected to use these funds to purchase tests and related supplies, as necessary.

[View Testing Plans by state and jurisdiction online.](#)

For more information please read HHS' [news release](#).

CDC Offers Tips for Safer Cook-Outs During COVID-19

There is updated advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on a variety of [activities](#), including strategies for reducing COVID-19 risk when visiting restaurants, traveling overnight, or hosting cook-outs and other summer gatherings. Much of this should sound familiar. What works to reduce the spread of coronavirus is universal: stay home if you are sick; wear a face cover; practice social distancing; and wash your hands. Other guidance is more specific to the activity, such as



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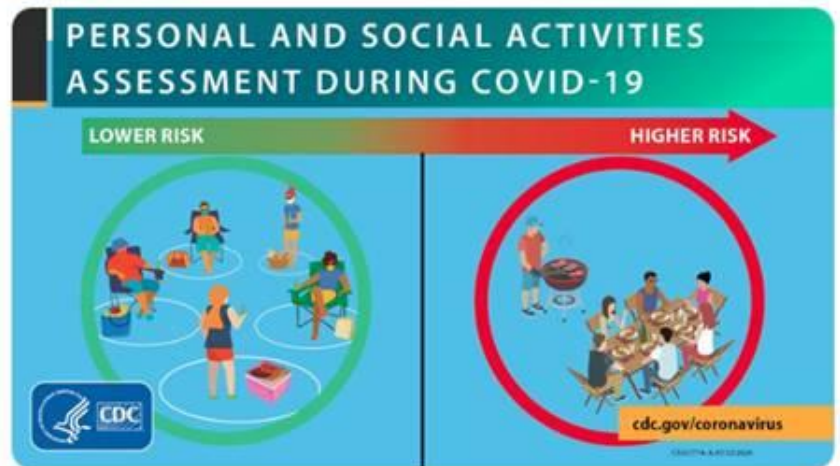
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NATIONAL SCHOOL REOPENING TRACKER

A new Johns Hopkins University tracker analyzes school reopening plans across the country. Click on the image or the link in the article.

considering keeping a list of guests who attend a cook-out to aid with potential future [contract tracing](#) needs. Remember: activities in Washington during the COVID crisis are subject to [Safe Start](#) rules. Snohomish County remains in Phase 2, which means [any cook-out or gathering should be small](#), and comply with guidance limiting engagement to a maximum of five people outside your household per week.



Planning to host summer gatherings or cook-outs with people not in your household? Check out CDC's new tips to help protect you and your family. For tips: bit.ly/3fuSfxC.



6:55 AM · Jul 14, 2020 · Hootsuite Inc.

Johns Hopkins University Launches National School Reopening Tracker

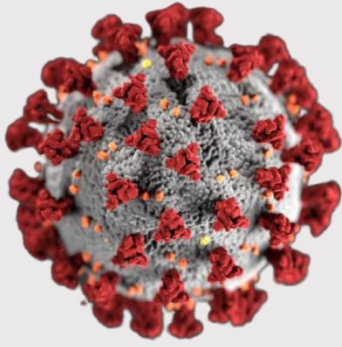


A [new Johns Hopkins University tracker](#) analyzes school reopening plans across the country. The JHU eSchool+ Initiative's new education tracker examines state plans in 12 categories from academics to protecting students from COVID-19 infections.

The tracker is meant to add equity to the conversation by looking at whether states are actively addressing disparities between students, given how many kids were left behind this spring, according to said Annette Anderson, Deputy Director of JHU's Center for Safe and Healthy Schools. "At the end of the day, it's about trying to make sure that when we reopen, that the reopening benefits all," she said.

Washington state's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has published [this guide for school districts](#) as they plan re-openings this fall.

For more information please check out JHU's [tracker map](#).



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WHO DIRECTOR GENERAL URGES CANDOR, COORDINATION ON PANDEMIC CHALLENGE

World Health Organization Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says "there will be no return to the 'old normal' for the foreseeable future," but there is a path forward to control COVID-19.

WHO Director General Urges Candor, Coordination on Pandemic Challenge

As COVID-19 cases top 13 million, World Health Organization Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says "there will be no return to the 'old normal' for the foreseeable future," but there is a path forward to control the disease.

"Let me blunt, too many countries are headed in the wrong direction," he said this week. "The virus remains public enemy number one, but the actions of many governments and people do not reflect this ... Mixed messages from leaders are undermining the most critical ingredient of any response: trust."

The focus now, he said, must be on reducing mortality and suppressing transmission; encouraging community members to take individual measures in the interests of each other; and providing strong government leadership, including coordination of strategies.

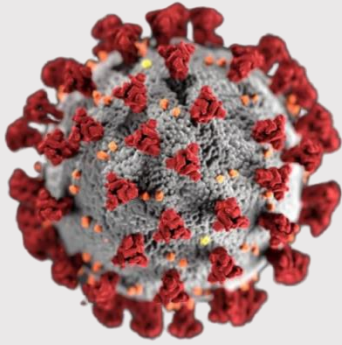
Read Ghebreyesus' [full statement](#).



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus @DrTedros · 10h

There will be no return to the "old normal" for the foreseeable future. But there is a roadmap to a situation where we can control #COVID19 and get on with our lives. No matter where a country is in its epidemic curve, it is never too late to take decisive action.





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OK, IT ISN'T SCIENTIFIC, BUT MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ON NEXTDOOR POLL REPORT WEARING MASKS

Just shy of 30,000 people responded to the informal poll posted by Washington Emergency Management. 88% of respondents report wearing a mask regularly.

OK, It Isn't Scientific, But Majority of People on Nextdoor Poll Report Wearing Masks

The Emergency Management Division of the state Military Department reports that nearly nine out of 10 people who responded to an online poll say they are regularly wearing masks and face covers. There were nearly 30,000 respondents. Wearing a cloth face cover in public has been strongly recommended for months, and it is now required under a [statewide public health order](#).



WA Emergency Management 🌞🌧️
@waEMD

On @Nextdoor, we asked if folks were wearing a mask or face covering. Just shy of 30,000 people responded over the weekend with the vast majority wearing a mask. Here's the results. #MaskUpWA #COVID19



Washington Emergency Management Division

Public Information Officer • 2 days ago

Are you wearing a mask or face covering? There are three mask mandates in place in our state. One is a requirement for employers to provide appropriate face coverings or masks to all employees who don't work alone. One is a Department of Health statewide order directing all
[See more...](#)

Yes. I am wearing a mask or face covering on a regular basis. 88%

No. I don't believe in wearing masks. 4%

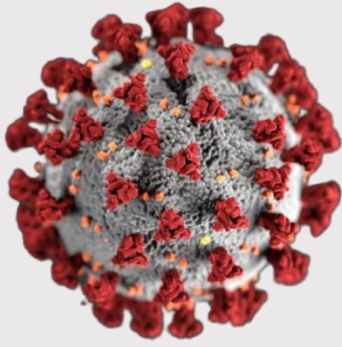
No. I have a medical condition or an exemption that prevents me from wearing a face mask. 2%

Sometimes. I only wear masks when my employer mandates I wear one at work. 2%

Sometimes. For reasons not covered here. 4%

29736 votes

10:25 AM · Jul 13, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)



COVID-19

CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Data on case counts are available on the Snohomish Health District [website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID-19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19
Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Washington State COVID-19
Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help.

Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of July 14, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 1:42 p.m.
Confirmed	4,129 (up 32 cases from 7/13)
Probable	521 (up 4 from 7/13)
Deaths	176

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 1:42 p.m.
Arlington	184 (130 recovered)
Bothell*	334 (220 recovered)
Brier	25 (23 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	429 (347 recovered)
Everett	1,369 (1,015 recovered)
Gold Bar	<5 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	34 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	205 (131 recovered)
Lynnwood	779 (649 recovered)
Marysville	401 (274 recovered)
Mill Creek	74 (55 recovered)
Monroe	133 (87 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	140 (118 recovered)
Mukilteo	81 (72 recovered)
Snohomish	230 (170 recovered)
Stanwood	141 (106 recovered)
Sultan	11 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	39 (24 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	20 (11 recovered)
Woodway	9 (8 recovered)

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. *Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.